

April 8, 1865), observes Dr. Russell Reynolds has detailed in his classical work on epilepsy the effects produced on that disease by the inhalation of chloroform till the patient is fully under its influence. He uses the chloroform thus when an attack is threatening, and at certain intervals afterwards, and concludes that when administered in this way "it may delay the attacks for a time, but it exerts no permanently good influence." The plan of treatment I have adopted (the results of which are about to be detailed) differs from the above in some important particulars, although the principle on which it is administered seems to be the same.

1st. The chloroform is inhaled in quantities so small as to stop short of inducing unconsciousness, except of the most trifling nature.

2d. It is administered two or three times daily for a period of two or three months at least.

3d. It is given regardless of the fits, never being given to ward them off, and never omitted because of their occurrence.

The principle on which it is administered is that of paralyzing the upper ganglia of the sympathetic, to induce conditions (hyperæmia) tending to unconsciousness, the very opposite of those which occur at the onset of an epileptic attack. Thus the primary influence of the drug as a stimulant to the brain, by inducing hyperæmia thereof, is brought to bear upon that organ thrice daily for a long period of time, and it is believed that there are cases of epilepsy in which this treatment must and does prove beneficial.

I should have used the NITRATE OF AMYLE instead of chloroform in some of these cases had the agent been less dangerous; for it seems to be the most powerful means we possess of exciting the heart's action, and producing results similar to those which follow paralysis of the sympathetic in the neck. When a few drops of the nitrate of amyle are inhaled, the heart's action increases by forty beats per minute, and the head, face, and neck become suffused by an intense hyperæmia; at the same time cerebral symptoms, such as throbbing and a sense of fulness of the head, indicate corresponding hyperæmia in the cranial cavity and its contents.

Dr. Murray reports several cases of epilepsy in which he has employed chloroform, and adds, from all this it appears that in accordance with the view taken of the physiological action of chloroform administered in this way, its therapeutic properties are to be relied on in cases of epilepsy where there is manifest loss of brain power. In such cases it seems to lead to increased vascularity of the head and consequent stimulation of the brain, accompanied by that excitement of the system which occurs in the very first stage of chloroformosis. It seems to do positive harm in cases where the brain is active and excitable, and in cases where the mental faculties are of average power and unimpaired no appreciable effect is produced on the disease.

In none of the cases in which the remedy was tried for a lengthened period has its use been followed by injury to the mental faculties.

21. *Treatment of Diphtheria with Ice.*—Mr. J. DUGGAN states that he has successfully employed ice in the case of a man affected with diphtheria. He ordered the patient to keep constantly swallowing small particles of ice, and also to keep continually sucking and melting icicles in his mouth until he should see him again on the following day, advising him to carry out his intentions most assiduously. On visiting him the evening of the next day "I was agreeably surprised," he says, "to find him much improved, the tensive swelling of the throat to a great extent subsided, and the inflammation of the internal fauces and the tumefaction of the velum pendulum palati (to which was attached the peculiar adventitious membrane) greatly reduced. I impressed upon him to continue using the ice as usual. As he complained of being weak, I gave him a mixture of infusion of bark and tincture of snakeroot, to take two tablespoonfuls three times a day, and to have an abundance of fresh milk and beaten eggs for food. He pursued this course of treatment for a few days, and, to my gratification, ultimately recovered from this dangerous disease.

"Although this is essentially a blood disease, yet the application of cold to the internal parts of the throat will be found of much benefit and a source of great

comfort to the sufferer. Of course it will be necessary to prescribe tonics and nutritious food to support the weakened system, and mild alteratives to improve depraved secretions. This mode of treatment—viz., by the constant swallowing of ice—may not be novel for aught I know, but I have never met it in books. To the practitioner where ice can be got at any moment, I would advise a trial in this and other kindred diseases of the throat, as it has the advantage of being harmless and simple in its action.”—*Medical Press*, April 26, 1865.

22. *New Specific Remedies for Gonorrhœa*.—Dr. THOS. B. HENDERSON introduces (*Med. Times and Gaz.*, June 3, 1865) to the profession two new specific remedies for gonorrhœa. The first is the oil of yellow sandal wood, which is obtained by distillation from the wood of *Sirium myrtifolium*, an East India tree.

Dr. H. says: “In my experiments with this drug, I have found it perfectly innocuous even in large doses. From twenty to forty minims three times a day, diluted with three parts of rectified spirit, and flavoured with ol. cassiæ or ol. cinnam., is the ordinary formula I employ; water and a confection after. In cases of the disease at the first, second, or third stage, in susceptible persons, I have often seen the most marked suppression of the discharge within forty-eight hours. It has the great advantage of being a pleasant medicine, not liable to cause sickness, agreeable to the taste, and grateful to the stomach. It is a medicine, as to efficacy, in my opinion, equal, and frequently superior, to bals. copaib. or cubeb pepper. I have often succeeded with it when both had been fairly tried and failed. Besides, it is convenient and portable; and if the patient is delicate, or in bad health, or the system disordered, the possession of a remedy which will act as a stomachic medicine and cure the disease is, I think, to be highly valued. I have used it in many cases during the past five years. I have no theory to offer as to its mode of acting. My experiments have been numerous, but entirely of a practical character. The odour of the drug is slightly perceptible in the urine. Its action on the urethra is observed, in susceptible cases, within a few days after beginning its use. Almost every druggist keeps it for perfumery purposes.”

The other remedy is the gurjun or gurjun balsam, or wood oil, the product of the *Dipterocarpus turbinatus*, an immense tree, a native of India. Dr. H. states that he has only used this “in cases where copaiba had been fully tried and failed. In every case it was successful within a week. No symptoms of inconvenience in any of the cases were produced. I gave it in what may be called large doses—a teaspoonful two or three times a day, uncombined. I have not been able to investigate its action further, as my supply became exhausted, and it is not easily procured in this country. I am thoroughly convinced it is an excellent medicine.”

Dr. O'Shaughnessy employed it according to Dr. Waring (*Manual of Practical Therapeutics*) in numerous cases of gonorrhœa and gleet; and the results seem perfectly conclusive that in the treatment of these and other affections of the genito-urinary system the essential oil of gurjun is nearly equal in efficacy to copaiba. It generally causes a sensation of warmth in the epigastrium, eructations, and sometimes slight purging. It greatly increases the quantity of the urine, which has a terebinthinate odour. Dr. O'S. found that some obstinate cases of gonorrhœa and gleet, which had long resisted copaiba and cubebs, were cured by this remedy. E. J. Waring writes: “In the few cases I have had an opportunity of trying it, the results have been uniformly satisfactory. It might be advantageously introduced into English practice as a cheap and efficient substitute for copaiba. The dose is ten to fifteen drops thrice daily.”

23. *Resolvent Properties of Fresh Parsley Leaves (Petroselinum sativum) in Engorgement of the Female Breasts*.—Dr. M. NEUCOURT highly extols (*Revue de Thérap. Méd.-Chirurg.*, June, 1865) the resolvent properties of the fresh parsley leaves in milk engorgements of the breasts. He relates three cases in which he resorted to this remedy with success. He had the breasts covered with fresh parsley leaves, and the application renewed three times a day.